

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for supporting a preform, comprising:
 - a shaft defining a groove;
 - a deformable element arranged in the groove;
 - a split ring having at least two sections each having an inner surface facing the deformable member and an outer surface, at least one of the sections having a protrusion extending from its inner surface, the protrusion being arranged adjacent to the deformable element, and the split ring being moveable in a radial direction whereby the protrusion causes the deformable element to be compressed in the groove.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a top portion attached to the shaft.
3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the split ring comprises an upper boss received in a first respective recess in the top portion and a lower boss received in a second respective recess in the shaft.
4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the shaft further comprises a nosepiece disposed opposite from the top portion.
5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the nosepiece forms a lip defining the second recess.
6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the split ring includes three sections forming a cylindrical shape around the shaft.
7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein each of the three sections includes a protrusion.
8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein split ring protrudes in a radial direction

to a larger extent than the shaft.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the deformable element comprises at least one O-ring.

10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the protrusion is a step formed on the inner surface.

11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the protrusion is configured to be received in the groove.

12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the protrusion directly contacts the deformable member.

13. A multiple finish spindle, comprising:
a spindle body defining a groove therein;
a shell including at least two pieces disposed around the spindle body, the shell having an outer surface, an inner surface facing the spindle body, and a protruding element arranged on the inner surface;
an elastically deformable element disposed in the groove, wherein the shell is moveable between an uncompressed position and a compressed position in which the shell moves in a radial direction towards the spindle body and the protruding element acts on the deformable element, compressing it in the groove.

14. The spindle of claim 13, wherein the protruding element is adapted to enter the groove.

15. The spindle of claim 13, wherein the pieces define a gap therebetween when the shell is uncompressed.

16. The spindle of claim 15, wherein the gap is closed when the shell is in the compressed position.

17. The spindle of claim 13, wherein in the compressed position the inner surface of the shell contacts the spindle body.
18. The spindle of claim 13, wherein the shell has a first outer diameter in the uncompressed position and a second diameter in the compressed position, the second diameter being smaller than the first diameter.
19. The spindle of claim 13, wherein the movement of the shell is in the range of about .006 to about .012 inches.
20. A method for supporting different size preforms, comprising:
providing a support device comprising a shaft defining a groove, a deformable element arranged in the groove, and a split ring having at least two pieces, at least one of the pieces having a protrusion arranged adjacent to the deformable element;
inserting the support device into a first preform having a first diameter causing the split ring and the protrusion move radially inward to a first distance and the split ring to frictionally engage the first preform;
inserting the support device into a second preform having a second diameter smaller than the first diameter thereby causing the split ring to be move radially inward second distance which is greater than the first distance and the split ring to frictionally engage the second preform.
21. The method of claim 20, wherein the second distance is about .006 inches greater than the first distance.
22. The method of claim 20, wherein the second distance is about .012 inches than the first distance.